

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00

SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OMB-01 L-03 DRC-01 SPC-03 IGA-02 /111 W

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P R 111120Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5133

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MT

SUBJ: GOM REQUEST FOR OIL TANKER

DEPARTMENT PASS AID/W; FRANKFURT FOR TEMPLETON

REF: A. VALLETTA 2525 B. USDAO 081230Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

1. PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN PRIME MINISTER' OFFICE, WINSTON ABELA, CALLED CHARGE IN JAN 11 TO REQUEST ON BEHALF OF P.M. THAT US GRANT OR LOAN TWO OIL TANKERS OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND TON CAPACITY FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD. IF VESSELS OF THAT SIZE NOT AVAILABLE, ONE TEN THOUSAND TON TANKER WOULD SUFFICE. GOM WOULD BE ABLE TO MAN AND OPERATE VESSELS(S).

2. ABELS SAID THAT TRANSPORT OF CRUDE FROM BREGA, LIBYA TO A REFINERY (MOST PROBABLY IN SCILY) WAS NO
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PROBLEM, BUT GOM NEEDED TRANSPORT FROM PRODUCTS FROM

REFINERY TO MALTA.

3. ABELS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. NAVY MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEND THE TANKERS, OR, IF USG STILL HAD LAID-UP TANKERS, PERHAPS THEY COULD BE INCLUDED IN OUR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.

4. CHARGE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT PROMISED CONVEY REQUEST TO WASHINGTON SOONEST. IN CONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWED ABELA SAID GOM HAD MADE SAME REQUEST TO HMG BUT BRITISH HAS RESPONDED NEGATIVELY. HE ALSO SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING PRICE FOR LIBYAN CRUDE AND REFINERY CAPACITY WERE STILL IN NEGOTIATING STAGE.

5. COMMENT: MINTOFF, OF COURSE, HAS NOT FORGOTTEN LOAN OF TWO USN SWIFT BOATS TO NATIONALIST ADMINISTRATION JUST BEFORE THE 1971 ELECTIONS, AND OBVIOUSLY WOULD APPRECIATE OUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING TANKERS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE, EVEN IF ONLY A HOLDING MESSAGE, SOONEST.TUCKER

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Message Attributes

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